RESOLUTION RE:PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE TO REVIEW RATE OF DIVIDEND PAYABLE BY INDIAN RAILWAYS TO GENERAL REVENUES

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN): Sir, I beg to move the following Resolution:

> "That this House concurs in the Recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do agree to the nomination by the Chairman of six Members from the Rajya Sabha to the Parliamentary Committee to review the Rate of Dividend which is at present payable by the Indian Railways to the General Revenues as well as other ancillary matters in connection with Railway Finance *vis-a-vis* General Finance and to make recommendations thereon."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S PENSION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1999

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI):

Sir, I beg to move:-

> "That the Bill to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act,1997, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, I propose that, as the Vice-President is the Chairman of this House, it would be in the fitness of things that we pass this Bill without any discussion, if every section of the House so agrees.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Now, I shall put the motion moved by Shri L. K. Advani to vote. The question is:

"That the Bill to amend the Vice-President's Pension Act,1997, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE. ENHANCEMENTOF RATE OF CUSTOMS DUTY ON WHEAT

Clarifications on Statement made by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance on 1st December, 1999 regarding Imposition of Customs Duty on Wheat

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) Sir, I move the following Resolution:

"That in pursuance of sub-section (2) of section 8A of theCustoms Tariff Act, 1975, read with sub-section (3) of section 7 ofthe said Act, this House hereby approves of Notification No.127/99 Customs dated 1.12.1999 (G.S.R. 793 (E) dated 1.12.1999) whichseeks to amend the First Schedule to the Customs Tariff Act, 1975so as to enhance the rate of customs duty applicable to goods falling under sub-heading Nos.1001.10 and 1001.20 of the said Schedule from "free" to "50%"

The question was proposed.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal) : Sir, we would like to seek some clarifications.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI) : Okay, we may take up the Statutory Resolution and the clarifications together.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, this imposition of tax has definitely been done to ensure that no import is made. The question arises that prior to the imposition of this tax, there was import of wheat in abundance and, at that point of time, wheat was imported from outside, from the international market, at a price lower than the domestic price. As a result,